

To Whom it May Concern:

First, I'd like to thank you in advance for taking the time to personally read this message.

I'm speaking on behalf of a private and thriving community, located southwest of St. Louis: Summerset Lake, just outside DeSoto, MO. I have taken the initiative to organize a petition group, as well as key contacts whose interest may be sparked and motivated by our situation.

First, I'll give a brief background of myself and the community that I represent.

My name is Andrew Wilhoit. I was born and raised in De Soto, MO. I am a graduate of De Soto High School, and Jefferson College in Hillsboro, MO.

After college, I moved to the city (St. Louis) for modern conveniences. One of the conveniences I speak of is broadband internet. Broadband was taken for granted in the community where my house was located. My family and I decided to move back to the rural community of Summerset Lake for all the reasons people move to rural communities. Our needs stayed the same, but our resources didn't. Summerset Lake is a great community, filled with families both young and old, who ALL require and deserve the benefits of broadband internet. Many people in my community have a sincere need, not want, for broadband internet. For me, it's telecommuting. For others, it's homework. I don't even own a phone book, and don't buy the newspaper anymore because of internet availability- but with dial-up, I can read the whole paper before this email is sent successfully.

After being bounced around by AT&T's sales department for months, and the sales department saying that Summerset Lake is too far away from the central office, with no further comment or forecast, I decided to take our issue one step further. I contacted all relevant people within my community, and found out that there was a "fiber remote terminal" installed at the entrance of our subdivision two-years ago. I was also informed that this remote terminal would enable AT&T to furnish DSL to our whole community with no problem. I know DSL is available within 1 mile of our community, and in some places, even closer. I have yet to hear comment from AT&T about forecasts or outlook projections with regard to DSL connectivity/availability in my community. I was informed that this was a "competition security" issue, which I understand.

We all agree, broadband internet is good for the economy and is necessary in today's modern times. With this said, our community has tremendous potential with regard to broadband sales. To prove this, I took it upon myself to organize a committee of peers and fellow residents who share the same need. In less than a week, my petition had 50 names (aside from a separate petition from 2 years ago, which had even more names), and complaints from the subdivision administration that our entrance gate leading into the subdivision had been blocked by crowds of residents who stopped to get my petition web address or phone number. Details on the secondary petition can be found here: www.c-rbuilders.com/dsl

By the end of next week, I hope to have over 200 people signed on 3 petitions, which are not only advocates of DSL in our community, but would agree to subscribe if it were an option.

Andrew J. Wilhoit